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Efforts underway to implement development projects nationwide, Khairkhwa



KABUL: The acting Minister of Information and Culture Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa said Thursday the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has been making efforts to implement development projects and provide people with job opportunities countrywide.

Khairkhwa made the remarks during the inauguration ceremony of a 100-bed hospital valued at 150 million Afghani in Nimruz province, the ministry said in a statement.

Nimruz local authorities have confirmed that the hospital meets established standards and will offer diverse medical services to patients.

The residents of Nimruz have warmly received the construction of this hospital, recognizing it as a significant advancement in healthcare provision for patients.

It is to be noted that the hospital's foundation stone was laid in 2014; however, progress was stalled for an extended period due to neglect by previous administrations.

The Kabul Times

IEA rejects hacking of ministries' systems

KABUL: The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Islamic Emirate on Thursday rejected the claims regarding the hacking of systems and the disclosure of documents from several ministries and institutions.

The published documents may have been made public individually from computers that did not fully implement the necessary security measures, and some of them were already accessible to the public, the statement said, assuring that the IEA's digital systems have not been hacked and that all its data is secure.

According to the statement, the documents shared on social media were old documents that could have been leaked from individual computers that lacked security.

The aim of social media users who published the documents was to confuse the public and make it appear as if the Islamic Emirate's systems had been targeted in a cyber-attack, the statement said, adding that the National Data Center and other archived systems are fully secure and have been reliably maintained against cyberattacks.



This comes after a self-declared hacker group started posting documents on social media claiming that these were taken from IEA government systems over the past 12 months.

The Kabul Times

Health facility completed in Helmand

KABUL: Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, the acting Minister of Public Health, during his visit to Helmand, inaugurated a health center in the Sangin district of Helmand province, marking a significant step towards enhancing healthcare services in the province, the ministry said in a statement Friday. The project, valued at approximately 26 million Afghanis, aims to improve access to quality health services for local residents.



Emphasizing the health center importance in addressing the healthcare needs of the people, Mawlavi Jalali said: "We are striving to provide quality services to every citizen and to work in a way that addresses the needs of the people."

The Ministry of Public Health is committed to expanding and developing the health system across various parts of Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Trans-Afghan railway construction to begin this year



KABUL: Uzbekistan's Transport Minister, Ilham Muhammad, announced that construction of the long-awaited Tran-Afghan railway would commence in 2025, the Akipress news agency reported the other day.

The ambitious project aims to strengthen regional trade and economic cooperation by connecting Central Asian countries to South Asia, the agency said.

The project includes a 573-kilometer-long railway line that will connect Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The railway line is expected to start from the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, and run through major cities in Afghanistan to Hyderabad, Pakistan.

The Trans-Afghan railway project aims to increase economic integration in the region and make a significant contribution to Afghanistan's reconstruction process.

With the completion of the project, it will be possible to transport goods and services between the countries of the region in a faster and safer way.

While work on the financing and technical details of the project continues, it is stated that significant progress has been made in the negotiations between the governments of Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, the agency added.

International organizations and financial institutions have also expressed their readiness to support the project. Experts emphasize that the completion of the Trans-Afghan railway project will make a significant contribution to increasing stability and prosperity in the region.

The project seems to have great potential, especially in terms of Afghanistan's economic development and the revival of regional trade.

The construction of the railway project, which is planned to start in 2025, is considered to be an important step for the future of the region.

With the realization of the project, it is aimed to establish a stronger economic and trade cooperation network between Central Asian and South Asian countries. The Kabul Times

IEA seeking positive interaction with world, says Fitrat

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has provided a suitable investment ground for both domestic and foreign companies in implementing development projects in the country,"

KABUL: The deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, said the other day that the current system has been seeking positive and constructive interaction with the world countries.

Reacting to the Meeting of the Special Representatives and Envoys of Central Asian States and the EU for Afghanistan in Tajikistan, Fitrat said that efforts for economic development in Afghanistan are ongoing and called on regional countries to assist in this regard.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has provided a suitable investment ground for both domestic and foreign companies in implementing development projects in the country," Fitrat said, asking the regional and world countries to open a new page of interaction with the current system. Tajikistan hosted the sixth Meeting of the Special Representatives and Envoys of Central Asian States and the EU for Afghanistan on Wednesday to discuss socio-economic and political developments in Afghanistan.



The Kabul Times

Leader's decree facilitates release of 165 prisoners from Herat jail



KABUL: The Herat's Governor Press office said Thursday in a statement that based on a decree of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) Shaikh Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada, 165 prisoners have been released from the central prison of the province.

According to the statement, the released individuals including women, expressed gratitude, describing clemency as a second chance to rebuild their lives, promising to move forward with responsibility and leave past mistakes behind.

The leader's decree was appreciated by the released prisoners. Based on a decree of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), Shaikh Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada, 240 prisoners, including 43 women and 16 children, were released from the central prisons of Balkh and Nangarhar on Tuesday.

The Kabul Times

ARCS provides healthcare services to 14,834 individuals in Baghlan in past month

The ARCS said that it has dressed up 237 injured individuals, vaccinated 1,416 women and children against various diseases, and advised 9,520 individuals about health care.

KABUL: The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) said the other that it has provided health services to 14, 834 individuals in the country's northern province of Baghlan over the past month of the current solar year.

The ARCS said that it has dressed up 237 injured individuals, vaccinated 1,416 women and children against various diseases, and advised 9,520 individuals about health care.

The medical staff of ARCS besides check-ups provided medication to 3,097 individuals in various parts of the province.

Further, 358 women were offered maternity services, 52 malnourished children were given nutritional food, and 154 other women were offered necessary advice regarding family planning, the ARCS added.



Meanwhile, residents of Baghlan emphasized the urgent need for increased health-care services in remote areas and they also asked the Afghan Red Crescent Society to expand its mobile health teams to reach more patients in need.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Occupiers will not reach their wishes

The recent statement of Donald Trump, the President of the United States, regarding the occupation of the Gaza Strip and the forced transfer of the Palestinian people to other countries once again reveals the true face of the West's colonial and oppressive policies.

Such statements indicate thinking that ignores the rights of nations and thinks that Islamic lands are like commodities in the hands of arrogant powers that can divide them among themselves. But history has repeatedly shown that such fantasies never become reality, as the Zionist regime, despite decades of efforts to occupy Gaza fully, finally had to accept defeat and agree to a ceasefire.

Blinded by the invincibility of the Palestinian people's resistance, Trump and his ilk think they can shape the future of Palestine with silly words and unrealistic plans. Gaza cannot be occupied, but it has become a symbol of resistance against oppression and colonialism. Despite years of siege, bombardment and international pressure, the people of this land still insisted on their right to live in their homeland and proved that no force could uproot them from their land.

The Zionist regime, which Trump and American politicians continue to support, tried for years to control Gaza by force and military might. But what was the result? The heroic resistance of the Palestinian people foiled all the plans of the occupiers and forced them to agree to a ceasefire. This fact is a strong answer to Trump and others who still live in the illusion of occupation.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which itself fought against the invaders and achieved victory, in response to these unwise statements, firmly declared that Gaza is the land of the Palestinian people and no power can decide its fate. This stance shows the Islamic Emirate's commitment to Islamic principles and defending the rights of oppressed nations.

Just as the invaders were defeated in Afghanistan and forced to leave this land, any power that wants to occupy Gaza will sooner or later face a similar fate.

History proves that occupation is not sustainable and the destiny of all occupiers is failure and scandal. America, which itself has the bitter experience of failure in Afghanistan, should learn from the past and know that policies of occupation and imposing wishes on nations will never result in anything other than failure. Palestine, especially Gaza, has become a symbol of resistance to the colonialists, and any attempt to change its fate is doomed to failure.

Therefore, Trump and other Western politicians must understand that the world is no longer dominated by their colonial thinking. Independent nations, especially the oppressed nation of Palestine, in addition to not bowing down to oppression, will stand up with all their strength to defend their rights. Just as the Zionist regime failed in Gaza, any other aggressor who covets this land will face the same fate.

Role of government in institutionalizing Islamic culture in trade markets



The government's obligations in promoting Islamic culture in trade markets and financial systems can be examined from legal, religious, and economic perspectives.

The rulers of Islamic lands or governments that incorporate Islamic values into their economic systems are responsible for regulating financial markets based on Shariah principles.

This approach not only strengthens their authority but also paves the way for a dynamic economy, trust, and prosperity in transactions among people.

First and foremost, the government must establish laws based on Islamic financial principles, such as the prohibition of usury (riba), the prevention of ambiguous and uncertain transactions, the ban on gambling, and adherence to the principle of justice.

Financial instruments like Islamic bonds (Sukuk), partnership (Musharakah), and cost-plus financing (Murabaha) should replace usurious systems.

Moreover, severe penalties should be imposed on those who violate these regulations to deter any attempts to undermine Islamic trade laws.

The government must also establish oversight bodies through relevant ministries, such as the Municipality, the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, and other regulatory institutions, to monitor financial activities and ensure that financial institutions comply with Islamic laws.

The Council of Scholars and religious clerics should supervise market transactions according to Islamic jurisprudence and prevent fraud and deceit in the market to build public trust.

One of the government's most significant responsibilities is cultural promotion and public education.

Through ministries such as Information and Culture, the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the Council of Scholars, the Academy of Sciences, and the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, the government should raise awareness about Islamic economics to eliminate un-Islamic traits from the market and replace them with Islamic principles.

This can be achieved through public media, education in schools and universities, mosque sermons, and the provision of specialized courses, seminars, and workshops for financial operators.

The government should develop a dynamic Islamic banking system so that these banks transition from forbidden, non-Islamic, and outdated transactions toward economic growth and an Islamic financial system.

To support these institutions, policies such as tax exemptions, legal facilities, and the promotion of Islamic banking benefits should be implemented. In this regard, the government must allocate a specific budget for infrastructure development.

Additionally, the government must prevent the inflow of illicit investments, non-Islamic revenues, and forbidden transactions. Although, by the grace of Allah (SWT), the current government has already taken effective steps in this regard, the author still finds it necessary to highlight its importance.

The government should prevent transactions involving alcohol trade, gambling, and funds from espionage organizations and, through Islamic financial institutions, direct financial markets toward halal transactions.

The government can further promote Islamic financial culture through incentive policies such as strengthening and expanding Islamic loan systems, combating usury, facilitating joint government-private investments, fostering domestic commercial companies, supporting local production, encouraging profit-sharing and partnership-based transactions (Mudarabah and Musharakah), and granting tax exemptions for productive enterprises.

It is undeniable that the government bears extensive responsibilities in promoting Islamic financial values, encompassing everything from drafting Islamic laws to establishing implementation, oversight, and educational frameworks. Success in this field requires legal support, strict supervision, public awareness, and the creation of innovative institutions to strengthen a robust Islamic financial system.

Undoubtedly, if any of these elements are missing or neglected in their execution, this process will face significant challenges. The end

Firooz Ahmad Ebrahimi



Kamal Khan Dam to play key role in development of agriculture in Nimroz

The Ministry of Water and Energy of the Islamic Emirate has recently announced that the third phase of the Kamal Khan Dam project in southwestern Nimroz province has been put into operation.

The dam is considered as crucial for water management, agricultural progress, and energy generation in the country. It also signifies a significant stride towards Afghanistan's economic stability.

The ministry has highlighted that the opening of this dam will furnish the region's inhabitants with agricultural, irrigation, and electricity production amenities, contributing substantially to the country's economic fortitude. Afghanistan has the right to construct dams over the country's rivers; therefore, the leadership of the Islamic Emirate is committed to the country's water management in light of the drought situation and the needs of the people and assures neighboring countries that no country will be harmed by the construction of dams on the country's rivers.



Kamal Khan Dam is considered as one of the largest dams and one of the most important projects in the country, which has a great impact on the economic, agricultural and environmental aspects of the country.

The dam was built on Helmand River in the Chahar Barjak district of Nimroz province to control seasonal floods, store 52 million cubic meters of fresh water, and generate 6 megawatts of electricity.

The dam built for the purpose of flood control can generate (9000KW) of electricity per hour, control the water to a maximum level, has the capacity to irrigate 175,000 hectares of land and store 52 million cubic meters of fresh water. As Nimroz has hot and dry climate and summer, with little rain, the construction of dams and canals creates suitable living conditions.

The passage of Helmand River through the mud of the central mountains causes the formation of land and soil and the creation of destructive floods in different seasons of the year.

At the same time, this river provides conditions for the construction of hydroelectric dams and the production of energy for the welfare of the country and is ready to irrigate the lands for the growth and development of agriculture along this river.

In the past, Kajaki Dam and now this Dam have been activated in the same route, while this dam plays a very important role in agricultural sector as well, so it can be said that this Dam has a special place in national economy regarding the agricultural development of the region.

Afghanistan has five rivers basin namely Amu, Harirud-Murghab, Helmand, Kabul (Indus) and Northern.

Besides, it also has seasonal small rivers which have 3 – 4 months of water when there is rain, therefore people are using the underground water which will cause the storage of water.

As in total Afghanistan has the capacity to store 75 billion cubic meter fresh water of which 55 billion cubic meter is surface water and 20 billion cubic meter is groundwater; however, only 67% of its total population has access to drinking water, so the major objective behind constructing Dams in the country is to fulfill the need of people for drinking water and irrigation of crops.

The Islamic Emirate is committed to the country's water management in light of the drought situation and the needs of the people and assures neighboring countries that no country will be harmed by the construction of dams on the country's rivers.

Over the past three years, particular attention has been paid in management of the country's water and completion of the third phase of Kamal Khan Dam is part of this commitment. **Sayed Sharif**

Increasing bilateral trade between Afghanistan & Uzbekistan

Trade between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan has increased even sixfold year-on-year over the past three years, a certain sign that interaction between the two countries is flourishing. Recently, business representatives from Uzbekistan and Afghanistan have signed a $4.5 million trade agreement. Afghanistan's Ministry of Industry and Commerce has announced the deal, stating that it has been signed by private sector representatives from both countries.



Most of Afghanistan's exported items to Uzbekistan are dried fruit, fruit juice, apricot, sesame, carpets and most of our imported items are electricity, flour, beans, chemical fertilizers, oil and gas.

Currently, 550 Afghan-invested enterprises operate in Uzbekistan, 443 of which are fully Afghan-owned. Joint projects are ongoing in food production, construction materials, agriculture, tourism, and textiles.

Beyond trade agreements, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan are discussing broader economic cooperation. In August 2024, an Uzbek delegation led by Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov visited Afghanistan.

During the meetings, both sides emphasized their goal of increasing trade turnover to $1 billion in 2024, with a long-term target of $3 billion. Officials stressed the need to tap into new economic opportunities on a mutually beneficial basis.

In October 2024, Afghanistan's Ministry of Mines and Oil signed a 10-year contract with an Uzbek company for gas exploration and production in the Tuti Maidan gas field in Jawzjan province.

The project is expected to bring in about $1 billion in investment to the region's gas sector.

There are also ongoing plans to construct a trans-Afghan railroad linking Uzbekistan and Afghanistan with Pakistan.

Officials from the three countries have reached agreement on a protocol outlining a roadmap for the project, which should culminate in a route running from Termez in Uzbekistan, through Mazar-i-Sharif and Logar in Afghanistan and finally reaching the Kharlachi border crossing in Pakistan. The roadmap envisions organizing technical feasibility studies and exploring funding options.

The cost of completing the work has been estimated at $6 billion and it is hoped that up to 15 million tons of cargo will be able to travel along the route by 2030.

Currently, Afghanistan is linking with many countries as Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran, and is becoming a trade, transit and communication hub as it can act as a land bridging link between the respective countries.

With increasing trade, Afghanistan will achieve sustainable economic development.

Trade between Afghanistan and countries in the region has increased over the past three years as the level of regional cooperation has now doubled. Afghanistan is now moving from bilateral to regional as it can link with many countries and has the capability to play its central role as a land bridge between Central Asia and South Asia, and the Middle East and the Far East.

With the Islamic Emirate takeover and improvement of overall security situation across the country, regional cooperation and trade relations between Afghanistan and countries in the region have increased, which will help our country achieve sustainable economic development in coming years.

Fida Mohammad

Electricity shortages in southwest Afghanistan disrupting daily life and economic activity

Part III

The residents of Kandahar province and small business owners have highlighted the critical need for a permanent electricity supply, stating that stable electricity could double the region's economic activities.

Rozi Khan, the owner of a small business in Kandahar, urged the Islamic Emirate to prioritize the establishment of a permanent electricity source for Kandahar city. He stated, "Factories need electricity. The current power supply is insufficient to meet people's needs. If a reliable electricity source is established, work will double or even triple. We ask the government to seriously consider building a permanent power plant."



Kandahar, located in southern Afghanistan, experiences extreme heat during the summer, with temperatures reaching up to 48 degrees Celsius (118°F). Due to this intense heat, residents struggle with daily life, and the lack of electricity further worsens the situation.

Farid Ahmad Ahmadi, a resident of Kandahar, told The Kabul Times that last year, during the peak of summer, the province experienced severe heat without any electricity.

"Living in Kandahar without electricity is extremely difficult," he said. "Every year, when summer approaches, residents worry about how they will endure the scorching heat. The government, especially the electricity department in Kandahar, lacks the capacity to provide even a minimal power supply during these harsh summer months."

He also mentioned that during summer nights, despite mosquitoes being a problem, many people choose to sleep outdoors due to the unbearable heat inside their homes.

"If the government provides an adequate electricity supply to meet household needs, people will no longer suffer from these problems," he added.

According to The Kabul Times, Kandahar's industrial park currently receives 6 megawatts of electricity. However, the province requires at least 15 megawatts to partially address the power shortage affecting industrial factories.

Officials from Kandahar's electricity department confirmed that residents currently receive only 2 to 3 hours of electricity per day. This limited power comes from diesel-powered generators and solar energy sources.

Additionally, efforts are underway to connect Kandahar to imported electricity from Kabul, which may help increase power availability in the province.

Like Kandahar, officials in Helmand province also acknowledge the ongoing power crisis and are working to find solutions.

Currently, Helmand's industrial sector requires 25 megawatts of electricity, but Kajaki Dam, the province's main power source, is only operating one turbine, which is insufficient to meet the electricity demand of the entire region.

The Helmand electricity department stated that in addition to expanding Kajaki's capacity, they are also working to connect the province to imported electricity to address the shortage.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Helicopters Afghan assets; why transferred to U.S.

A sad report released recently said that seven helicopters belonging to the Afghan army have transferred to U.S. from Uzbekistan.

Before Donald Trump's power takeover, strong speculations were made that he will impose strict restrictions on Afghanistan under the the Islamic Emirate. And the vicious plan he had made has now practiced.

Reports from Uzbek media saud that Uzbekistan has handed over seven helicopters, which were transferred to Uzbekistan during the fall of Afghanistan's previous government, to the United States.

According to reports the transfer of these helicopters was announced in a ceremony at the Uzbek embassy in Washington.

"These aircraft were not aggressors.

They were transferred by Afghans. Uzbekistan is a friendly, neighboring, and Muslim country that should have cooperated in good faith and handed over the aircraft to us," Kamran Aman, a military affairs expert told local TOLOnews TV channel.

Although the Islamic Emirate has not yet responded to this issue, it had previously requested that Uzbekistan return the helicopters to Afghanistan based on good neighborly relations.

The Ministry of Defense of the Islamic Emirate had stated that the helicopters belong to Afghans and that they would take all possible measures to reclaim them.

Fasihuddin Fitrat, the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Defense, had said: "They should not accept such an act where someone's right is given to another.

These aircraft belong to Afghanistan and are Afghanistan's right. Giving these aircraft to others is unacceptable to us."

After the fall of the previous government, a total of 46 Afghan military aircraft and helicopters were transferred to Uzbekistan.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense had also confirmed that before the Islamic Emirate took control of the country, there were 164 military aircraft in Afghanistan, of which 81 remain today.

Few years ago, officials from the Cultural Commission of the Ministry of Information and Culture of the Islamic Emirate said military equipment of the former government had been transferred out of Afghanistan.

Footage published on social media showed several Afghan air force helicopters in Uzbekistan and images also showed Humvees and Ranger trucks being transferred into Iran.

Noor Mohammad Mutavakil, a member of the Cultural Commission, said some of the military hardware transferred into Iran has been returned to Afghanistan.

However, he did not say who had transferred the hardware out of the country.

"Requests should be made for its return because it belongs to our people—if it is tanks or helicopters. Some hardware has been brought back from Iran," he said.

Meanwhile, a number of MPs and former military officers said military hardware belongs to the people and no one should be allowed to take it out of the country.

Sayed Ahmad Silab, an MP, said that following the collapse of the former government after Ashraf Ghani fled, dozens of helicopters and hundreds of Humvees were transferred out of the country. "The Islamic Emirate should bring back the military hardware from the neighboring countries," he said.

"This is the third time that our air and land forces have disintegrated. It is a loss, and I am very worried," said Abdul Hadi Quraishi, a former military officer.

Based on available figures, Afghanistan had 160 fighting helicopters and 22,176 armored Humvees when the former government was in power. Now, however, it is not clear how much of this hardware remains inside the country and how much has been transferred out.

Inam Hashemi

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ECB confirms match against Afghanistan in Champions Trophy



Richard Thompson, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), has confirmed that England's national cricket team will play against Afghanistan in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy. His statement comes amid calls for England to boycott the match due to concerns about the status of women's cricket in Afghanistan.

Following a meeting regarding these boycott requests, Thompson issued an official statement, emphasizing the importance of cricket for the Afghan people. He stated, "Cricket is one of the few sources of joy for the people of Afghanistan, so we will play this match."

Thompson acknowledged that there are differing opinions on whether England should participate in the match, adding that the ECB is carefully considering all perspectives. "We understand there are different views on this issue, and we are listening," he said.

The ECB chairman also mentioned that the board is in discussions with the UK government, the International Cricket Council (ICC), players, and other stakeholders to assess the situation thoroughly. He highlighted that part of these discussions involves finding ways to support Afghanistan's female cricketers who have left the country.

England's decision to proceed with the match comes as the ICC faces ongoing debates about Afghanistan's participation in international cricket. While Afghanistan's men's team continues to compete at the highest level, its women's cricket program was effectively dismantled after the Taliban's return to power in 2021, leading to criticism from human rights organizations and some cricketing nations.

Despite these concerns, Thompson's statement indicates that England remains committed to playing Afghanistan in the Champions Trophy while also exploring ways to assist Afghan women in cricket. **The Kabul Times**

National Mountaineering Federation launches selection competition in Kabul



The National Mountaineering Federation of Afghanistan has launched a two-day competition in the mountains of Farza district, Kabul, to select players for the national mountaineering team.

Athletes from eight provinces are participating in the event, where they will attempt to ascend the 3,200-meter-high peaks of the Hasan Dara mountains.

Based on their performance, a 30-member national team will be selected.

The competition aims to identify and train skilled climbers who can represent Afghanistan in national and international mountaineering events. It also seeks to promote mountaineering as a professional sport in the country, encouraging more athletes to take part in adventure sports.

Despite Afghanistan's mountainous terrain, mountaineering remains an underdeveloped sport. However, recent efforts by the National Mountaineering Federation suggest a growing interest in organizing and supporting professional climbers.

The event in Farza is expected to test the endurance, technical skills, and determination of the participants.

Athletes will be judged on their climbing speed, ability to navigate difficult routes, and overall physical fitness. The federation has emphasized that safety measures are in place to ensure the well-being of all participants.

The selection of a national team is seen as a step forward in Afghanistan's mountaineering scene, potentially opening doors for Afghan climbers to compete internationally. Officials hope that initiatives like this will bring recognition to Afghan athletes and inspire a new generation of mountaineers.

The competition will conclude with the announcement of the final 30-member team, which will undergo further training in preparation for future national and international mountaineering challenges.

The Kabul Times

Real Madrid advances to Copa del Rey semi-finals

Real Madrid has secured a spot in the semi-finals of the Copa del Rey after defeating Leganés 3-2 in the quarter-final clash.

The thrilling encounter saw both teams put up a strong fight, but Madrid ultimately emerged victorious.

The match featured an intense battle as Leganés challenged the Spanish giants. However, Real Madrid capitalized on key moments to claim the win.

Luka Modriæ, Endrick, and García were the goal scorers for Madrid, ensuring their progression in the tournament.

Modriæ opened the scoring with a well-placed shot, setting the tone for Madrid's performance.

Endrick, the young Brazilian talent, showcased his skills with a crucial goal, while García sealed the victory with another strike.

Leganés fought hard and managed to score twice, but it was not enough to overturn Madrid's dominance.

With this win, Real Madrid moves one step closer to claiming another Copa del Rey title.

The team's performance demonstrated its attacking strength and ability to handle pressure in knockout matches. Head coach Carlo Ancelotti praised his players for their determination and composure in securing the semi-final berth.

The Copa del Rey remains one of Spain's most prestigious football tournaments, and Real Madrid will now prepare for a tough semi-final challenge.

Fans eagerly await the next round, where Madrid will aim to continue their journey towards lifting the trophy.

The Kabul Times



Feasibility study to be kicked off on Herat-Kandahar railway



KABUL: The acting Minister of Public Works, Mullah Mohammad Esa Sani, signed five contracts worth 264 million Afghani with the representatives of five domestic and foreign companies to kick off the feasibility study of Herat-Kandahar railway, the ministry's spokesman Mohammad Ashraf Haqshenas said Thursday.

Based on the contracts, the contractor companies will work on the feasibility study and detailed design of the 737.5 km Herat-Kandahar railway, he said.

Haqshenas said: "After the detailed design, practical work will begin and be completed within eight months."

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan plans to establish a large-scale railway network to establish regional connectivity and increase regional transit and transfers through the country.

The Kabul Times

Alaska authorities search for missing small plane

US authorities are looking for a small plane carrying 10 people that has been reported missing in the state of Alaska.

The US Coast Guard for the Alaska region said a Cessna Caravan craft was 12 miles (19km) offshore on a flight from Unalakleet to Nome when "its position was lost".

The two cities are some 146 miles from each other across the Norton Sound, an inlet of the Bering Sea on Alaska's western coast.

Search and rescue crews "are working to get to the last known coordinates" of the flight, state officials said in a statement.

They said they had been notified of an "overdue" aircraft operated by the airline Bering Air at 16:00 local time on Thursday (01:00 GMT).

The 10 people on board comprised nine passengers and a pilot, the update from the Alaska Department of Public Safety said. There was no information immediately available about who was on board.

The BBC has contacted Bering Air for comment.

BBC

Three water supply networks constructed in Khost



KHOST: The Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department of Khost province said the other day that three solar-powered water supply networks worth 9.5 million Afghani have been inaugurated.

The water supply networks have been constructed in the Kundio, Habash Khel, and Wardakhel areas of the province, the statement said, adding the projects provided clean drinking water to 526 families in the respective areas.

During the construction of the project, job opportunities have been provided for numerous individuals.

Meanwhile, a number of local residents expressed gratitude for the implementation of the projects and asked the government to launch more welfare projects and provide the people with services and facilities in the province.

The Kabul Times

Iran's Khamenei says experience proves talks with US 'not smart'

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Friday experience has proven that talks with the United States are "not smart, wise or honorable."

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he would like to have a verified nuclear peace agreement with Tehran.

During his previous term in office in 2018, Trump pulled the United States out of Tehran's 2015 nuclear pact with world powers and reimposed sanctions that have crippled the country's economy.

The harsh measures prompted Tehran to violate the pact's nuclear limitations.

A senior Iranian official told Reuters on Wednesday that Iran is ready to give the United States a chance to resolve disputes.

Alarabiya

Russian strikes kill three in Ukraine border region



Russian strikes on the Ukrainian border region of Sumy overnight killed three people who were pulled from the rubble of a two-story residential building, prosecutors said Friday.

They said Moscow's forces had struck the village of Miropillia shortly before midnight in Sumy, which lies just across the border from Russia and has been coming under increasing fatal bombardments.

"As a result of the enemy attack, three people were killed - their bodies were recovered from the rubble," the office of the prosecutor general wrote on social media.

The attack ripped a hole dividing two sections of a Soviet-era building, official images showed.

Prosecutors said they had opened a war crimes investigation into the strike they said comprised of three guided bombs.

Sumy borders the Russian region of Kursk where Ukrainian forces launched a shock offensive six months ago but Moscow in turn has stepped up its bombardments on the industrial and farming region.

A Russian drone attack on Sumy city late last month killed at least nine people in a residential building at night.

Alarabiya